

Stuart Wolfe, M.D.

MEDICAL TOWER BUILDING
255 S. 17TH STREET SUITE 1602 - PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103
215-756-3022

April 17, 2003

Mr. Frank Hutchinson
Coalition for HUD Tenants
946 Broad St., Third Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

RE: DORIS COVINGTON

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

My patient, Doris Covington, is a tenant at a HUD project. She has been threatened with eviction she appealed that and was supposedly going to be reinstated after she replaced carpeting which she removed because the mold in the carpet was affecting her health seriously with repeated bouts of bronchitis and pneumonia confirmed by her primary care physician.

Ms. Covington has been stabilized as a bipolar disorder and disassociative disorder over the years. She is a quite intelligent and capable person. There have been considerable difficulties with her landlord on an interpersonal basis, some of which seem to be a wish to remove Ms. Covington from the apartments.

If Ms. Covington is evicted, there is absolutely no place for her to go within her economic means. In addition, I feel that this will precipitate her suicide. As you may know, people with bipolar disorder have a rate of suicide, even treated, of about 20%. This stressor, in my opinion, would definitively result in her taking her life. The local HUD people would be responsible for something that is preventable.

In my 40 years as a psychiatrist, I have never had a suicide. I have been able to be alert to the possibility and have been quite lucky. I really fear for Ms. Covington's life in this situation, and I have, to that extent, loaned her money for rent over a period of time. Our social agencies should continue her housing as they have previously.

I hope that people will take this seriously and not use bureaucratic measures to evict Ms. Covington from the home that she has been in for several years.

FROM : Stuart Wolfe, M.D.
ABS, INC.

PHONE NO. : 215 735 3322
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APR. 17 2003 12:24PM P3
04/17/03 12:31pm P. 002

Mr. Frank Hutchinson

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April 17, 2003

RE: DORIS COVINGTON

Please take as much and urgent action as you can in this matter as it is a matter, of life and death.

Respectfully,



Stuart Wolfe, M.D.
Distinguished Life Fellow of the
American Psychiatric Association

SW:MDP